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NEWS RELEASE

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State convicts Davis County businessman of tax evasion

A Bountiful business owner was convicted of attempted tax evasion earlier this month and ordered to pay nearly \$283,000, plus interest to the State Tax Commission.

David Breitenbeker, 57, Centerville, owner of DesignWerks in North Salt Lake and David's Floral in Bountiful, was sentenced for failure to remit sales taxes collected from his customers over the course of 14 years.

He was also sentenced to 20 years probation for the third degree felony by 2nd District Court Judge Thomas L. Kay. The 0-to-five year prison sentence was suspended.

The Tax Commission investigation showed that Breitenbeker had collected sales taxes between 1994 and 2008 for both businesses but failed to remit all of the funds to the Tax Commission, said spokesman Charlie Roberts.

"This investigation documented a long pattern of Breitenbeker using state sales taxes entrusted to him by his customers to fund his businesses, intentionally disregarding his fiduciary responsibility," Roberts added.

As part of the plea bargain all charges filed against David's son, Paul Breitenbeker were dismissed without prejudice.

State and local sales taxes are used to fund basic state and local services including police, fire fighting, parks, libraries, recreation and other public services.

"The Tax Commission continues to aggressively pursue those individuals who collect taxes from their customers and use them for illegal purposes," Roberts said.

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